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April 9, 2001

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Docket number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in regard to docket number 98P-0151/CP1, the policy to stop purchasing meat from downed cows for Federal programs, including the National School Lunch Program. This development shows a growing consensus - even among livestock industry and government officials - that the marketing and slaughter of downed animals is unacceptable.

I would like to urge you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. I believe that animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

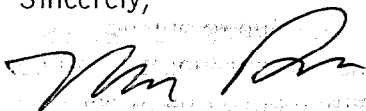
The cruelty these animals are subjected to is horrendous. It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

You may be aware that downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and therefore prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% percent of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

I hope you will agree that this policy must be granted petition.

Sincerely,

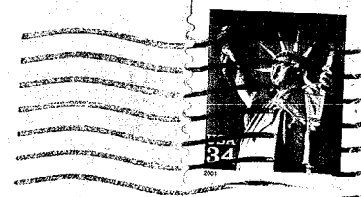


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